and 49 pieces of ear phones of foreign origin valued at Rs. 21,58,750/-were seized by the Customs. The case is under investigation by the Customs Department.

Security Lapse at Coimbatore airport

3637. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a major security lapse at Coimbatore airport within a week after the Central Industrial Security Force took over;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any person has been held responsible for such a great risk; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to stop recurrence of such lapse at airports all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d) An incident of theft was reported at Coimbatore airport on 27.1.2002 in which 25 approach light fittings/bulbs were found missing. The entire stolen property worth Rs. 50,000/- has since been recovered. An enquiry has been ordered into the incident.

To ensure that such incidents do not recur, Central Industrial Security Force is now regularly patrolling around the perimeter wall.

Security lapses at international airports

3638. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, 'International airport vulnerable to security breach' which appeared in Hindustan Times dated the 2nd February, 2002;

(b) if so, the number of incidents of security lapses which occurred at international airports in the country during the last year;

(c) whether any action has been taken against the officials for the security lapses;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken by Government in order to prevent such security lapses?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Fourteen incidents of security lapses, most of which are intrusion cases, occured at the international airports during the last year. The concerned agencies have been advised to take action against the erring officials.

(e) Following steps have been taken to strengthen security arrangements:

(i) Time bound deployment of CISF at all operational airports

(ii) Deployment of Quick Reaction Teams at major airports.

(iii) Secondary ladder point frisking at all airports.

(iv) Deployment of Sky Marshals on domestic scheduled flights at random basis

(v) Regular monitoring of security arrangements by inspections and dummy checks.

Airports at Tuticorin and Salem in Tamil Nadu

3639. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of long pending demand of airport terminals at Tuticorin and Salem, important commercial towns in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken to open airport terminals;